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Public Health Notice

Shortage of Td Prompts "Priority Use" Recommendations

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Contact: Cindy Howarth, RN - Immunizations Program Supervisor
Phone: 327-8524
E-mail: chowarth@phd4.state.id.us

A national shortage of tetanus and diphtheria toxoids (Td) and tetanus toxoid (TT) could have a serious impact on vaccine programs in Idaho in the second half of 2001. The Idaho Immunization Program has informed district health departments that the current national shortage of adult tetanus and diphtheria toxoids will probably not be resolved until "sometime in 2002".

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued the following notice regarding the shortage in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) on May 25, 2001:

"To assure vaccine availability for priority indications, all routine Td boosters in adolescents and adults should be delayed until 2002. Td use should follow existing recommendations for all other indications, which include:

- 1. Persons traveling to a country where the risk for diphtheria is high.**
- 2. Persons requiring tetanus vaccination for prophylaxis in wound management.**
- 3. Persons who have received < 3 doses of any vaccine containing tetanus and diphtheria toxoids.**
- 4. Pregnant women [and persons at occupational risk for tetanus-prone injuries]* who have not been vaccinated with Td within the last 10 years.**

Health care providers using Td for wound management should follow recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices for wound management."

According to the Idaho Immunization Program, pediatric DT is in good supply and there is no immediate concern about its availability.

Providers with questions about the supply of Td can contact the Idaho Immunization Program at 334-5931. For information about Central District Health Department's supply, contact Cindy Howarth, RN, Immunizations Program Supervisor, at 327-8524.

For a complete copy of the CDC notice, go to the website at www.cdc.gov/mmwr.

* Added recommendation by the Idaho Immunization Program.

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